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A BRIEF REVIEW OF THE ARGENTINE DAIRY INDUSTRY

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of Agriculture.

To write anything like a comprehensive review of the dairy industry of the Argentine Republic and give accurate data on production is an impossibility because accurate statistics are not available. There is no legal inspection or supervision of creameries and cheese factories and no method of requiring reports of products manufactured. There is, however, an accurate record of all products exported, but figures on local consumption and total production are only rough estimates.

The most reliable statistics of production that we have are furnished by the Office of Rural Economy and Statistics of the Department of Agriculture of Argentina. The following tables 1, 2, and 3, were published in the January and February numbers of "La Industria Lechera" (The Dairy Industry), the official organ of the "Centro Nacional de la Industria Lechera." This organization is in reality the National Dairy Association of Argentina. It stands for all that is progressive and up-to-date in the dairy industry and is making every possible effort to advance the industry.

TABLE 1.- Production of Dairy Products in Argentina in 1919.

	Butter	Cheese	Casein
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
Federal District-----	30,595,853	182,559	384,617
Provinces-----			
Buenos Aires-----	13,892,507	34,973,470	8,643,478
Santa Fe-----	11,251,937	7,853,590	3,580,539
Cordoba-----	255,859	3,856,275	1,463,370
Entre Rios-----	403,548	881,452	41,098
	56,399,704	47,747,346	14,113,102
Other Provinces and			
Territories-----	433,499	2,146,182	37,864
GRAND TOTAL-----	56,833,203	49,893,528	14,150,966

Tables 1 and 2 indicate that the production of dairy products in Argentina is very unevenly distributed. But it is only natural that the production and manufacture of these products should be concentrated in the particular section further indicated by the shaded portions of the accompanying map for here are found three

principal factors that make the industry, (a) more than 66 per cent of the cattle, (b) nearly three-fourths of the consuming public (72 per cent), and (c) the commercial center and ports of exportation. The influence of the first two factors has been known since the beginning of the dairy industry. The importance of the third has not shown itself until the value of the products was known to the outside world and an export trade was developed.

TABLE 2.- Distribution of Establishments Manufacturing Dairy Products in Argentina.

Provinces and Territories	: : Factories : Idle	: : Factories : Operating	: : Cream : Stations	: : Butter : Factories	: : Cheese : Factories	: : Mixed
Federal District---	---	13	---	13	---	---
Buenos Aires-----	322	1,705	974	81	345	305
Santa Fe-----	35	714	432	22	103	157
Cordoba-----	12	352	114	2	108	128
Entre Rios-----	41	356	38	1	154	153
Catamarca-----	---	62	---	---	52	10
Corrientes-----	---	89	---	---	74	15
La Rioja-----	---	43	---	---	18	25
Mendoza-----	7	17	---	---	12	5
Salta-----	15	45	---	---	34	11
Santiago del Estero	---	32	1	---	21	10
San Juan-----	---	15	---	---	9	6
San Luis-----	15	113	---	---	68	45
Tucuman-----	12	68	1	---	59	8
Jujuy-----	---	25	1	---	21	3
Pampa-----	4	123	69	---	12	42
Chaco-----	---	9	---	---	5	4
Chubut-----	---	33	2	---	1	30
Formosa-----	---	16	---	---	11	---
Misionea-----	---	3	---	---	2	---
Neuquen-----	---	22	---	---	14	---
Rio Negro-----	---	31	---	---	12	1
TOTAL-----	463	3,886	1,632	119	1,135	1,000

The region referred to contains all the butter factories; 1,558 out of 1,632, or 95 per cent of the cream stations; 710 out of 1,135, or 63 per cent of the cheese factories; and 743 out of 1,000, or 74 per cent of the combined factories.

A comparison of the production shows even more plainly than does the number of factories the highly centralized character of the industry. According to the figures this area manufactures 99 per cent of the butter, 96 per cent of the cheese, and practically all of the casein. The great majority of the factories in the outlying districts are comparatively small.

TABLE 3.- Exportation of Dairy Products in 1920 Classified by Countries of Destination. (Compiled from export permits granted by the customs hours). #

Destination	Butter	Cheese	Cream	Condensed Milk	Dried Milk	Sterilized Milk	Milk Powder	Sweet Preserve of Milk	Chocolate and Milk Preserve.
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
England	25,543,199	40,812	---	2,535	7,992	---	---	---	---
France	2,371,356	193,917	---	---	---	595	---	---	---
Italy	2,954,054	5,545	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
United States	5,297,614	12,103,523	---	51	35	247	---	---	---
Paraguay	80,860	305,943	---	---	---	53	---	---	---
Brazil	79,031	503,919	---	---	8,818	265	---	---	---
Uruguay	43,792	97,108	447,267	6,504	28,660	159	6,614	5,864	1,521
Chile	478,198	260,365	---	---	---	7,255	---	---	---
Peru	432,831	102,412	---	---	---	102,146	661	1,235	---
Spain	127,726	49,747	---	---	1,102	---	---	---	254
Belgium	1,240,270	135,142	---	50,706	---	---	---	---	---
Bolivia	128,339	9,982	---	---	---	13	---	2,307	---
Holland	523,293	---	---	36,508	---	12,081	---	---	---
South Africa	77,518	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Sweden	216	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Greece	1,543	556	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Norway	976,737	3,071	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Switzerland	525,799	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Jamaica	37,796	1,133	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Turkey	996	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Japan	441	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Falkland Islands	14,480	789	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Equador	---	10,758	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Germany	54,070	22,906	---	135,415	7,374	2,540	198	904	904
Egypt	2,734	3,254	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Straits Settlement	110	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
India	926	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Austria	255,293	1,512	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Cuba	---	3,340	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Mexico	265	5,181	---	507	---	5,966	608	5,223	---
TOTAL	41,249,487	13,860,915	447,267	232,226	53,981	131,324	8,081	15,533	2,679

In addition to this there were 2,000,000 pounds of casein, the destination of which is not known.

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The three products of the dairy industry which comprised the great bulk of the exports were butter, casein and cheese. Of the butter exported, England took more than half. The United States according to the customs house records of Argentina bought from our sister Republic a total of 5,298,000 pounds of butter and 12,104,000 pounds of cheese. In addition we also bought considerable quantities of casein not shown in the figures. Sweet preserve of milk is made from milk boiled and sweetened. It is something like sweet condensed milk but is brownish in color and is cooked in an open kettle. Chocolate and milk preserve is made with milk, chocolate and sugar.

The following brief summary of Argentina's exports of butter and cheese for the past 10 years gives some idea of the rapid growth of the dairy business during that period.

TABLE 4.- Exports of Butter and Cheese from Argentina 1910 - 1919.
(Compiled from the official publication "Anuario
del Comercio Exterior de la Republica
Argentina")

Years	Butter	Cheese
	Pounds	Pounds
1910-----	6,342,634 -----	809
1911-----	3,076,813 -----	1,142
1912-----	8,106,314 -----	4,281
1913-----	8,342,206 -----	16,186
1914-----	7,675,661 -----	8,216
1915-----	10,191,152 -----	13,344
1916-----	12,502,172 -----	502,012
1917-----	21,671,558 -----	6,015,015
1918-----	41,821,262 --	14,177,253
1919-----	44,881,247 --	19,561,969

These figures show a really remarkable growth in the export trade. From approximately 6,000,000 pounds of butter in 1910 it has increased to more than 40,000,000 pounds in 1920. The exportation of butter is now practically seven times what it was in 1910.

In 1910 only 800 pounds of cheese were exported, a quantity hardly worth mentioning. In 1920 more than 13,000,000 pounds were sold out of the country.

Three classes of people in the United States should be particularly interested in this great growth of the dairy industry in Argentina. They are: First, the American dairy farmer; second, the breeder of purebred dairy cattle; and third, the manufacturers of dairy machinery.

The American dairyman is interested because Argentine dairy products are in open competition with American products in the world's markets. Just what this will mean in the future, and how it will affect the price of these products in the home market, time alone will tell. One thing is certain and that is that the dairy business has come to stay in Argentina and that it is bound to grow

in the future.

This growth of the dairy industry is the phase that is of interest to the breeder of purebred dairy cattle. If the industry continues to grow, as there is every reason to believe it will, cattle of the distinctly dairy breeds will certainly increase in numbers in that country. There are at the present time very few strictly dairy cattle in Argentina as compared with the number of beef cattle. A considerable part of the dairy business is being done with cattle which in the United States would be considered too poor to keep for dairy purposes. As dairy-
ing increases there is certain to be an increasing demand for good dairy cattle. If the Argentine dairyman can get what he wants from the States at better terms than anywhere else, then this market will be open to the American breeder of purebred dairy cattle.

Modern dairying demands up-to-date machinery. Here is a good and constantly increasing market for this class of machinery which the American manufacturers have thus far neglected almost entirely. The United States makes the most efficient, practical and up-to-date dairy machinery of any country in the world and there is no good reason why we should not sell it in Argentina.

